1-A-Day SCRIPTURE

Scripture
and
Notes

By
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The aim of these One-A-Day Scripture offerings is to foster personal and individual studies, questions, thoughts, and guidance from the Holy One while keeping in mind that no human knows everything.

It's perfectly alright to READ and to THINK FOR YOURSELF.

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One-A-Day Scripture

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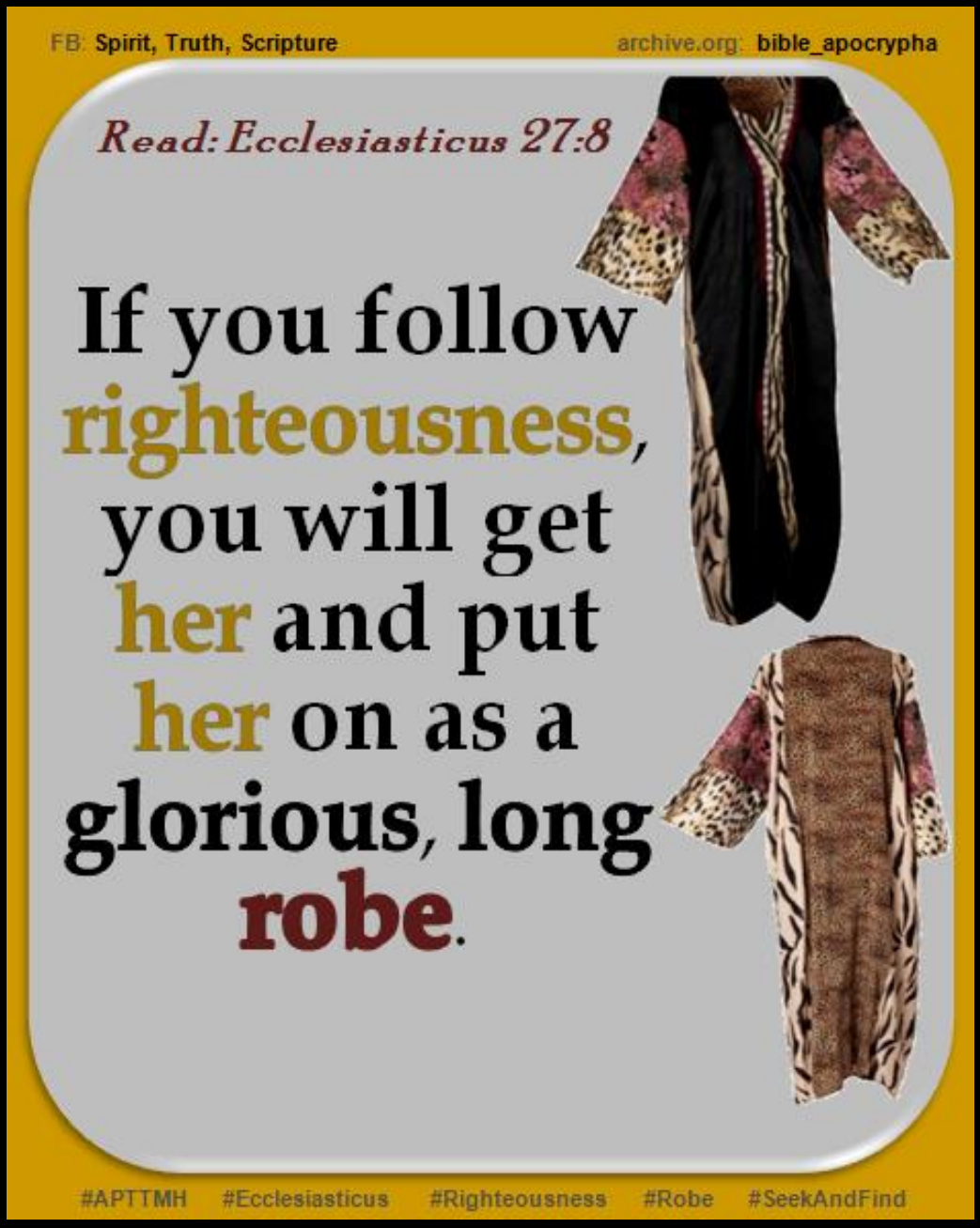
January 1

Ecclesiasticus 27:8 (1611 KJV)
“Glorious, Long Robe”



IF
you follow
righteousness,
you will get her
and put her on
as a glorious,
long robe.

We are given an "if" statement
which implies that

IF certain conditions are met,
THEN specific things will happen.

Can a person pursue
RIGHTEOUSNESS,
but not find it?

The issue for some is not that
they look for righteousness
but are unsuccessful.
The major concern is
that many are not genuinely

seeking genuine righteousness.

They may seek religious organizations
or various so-called "spiritual" outlets
(which often involve cults or
even occult activities),
but many are not really
seeking TRUE righteousness.

Many believe they will be
compensated for following a
kinda' sorta' righteousness.
However, "she" hides.

Lady righteousness hides.
She avoids the casual pursuer
in favor of those who are
deeply and seriously
interested in her.

She wraps herself around
the sincere seeker as if she were
a garment that fully covers
and totally beautifies—
a glorious, long robe.

January 2

Matthew 2:1-23 (AKJV)

"Plans, Prophecies, & Places"

2:2

Men, who came from the **east**, went to Jerusalem asking where the newborn King of the Jews could be found since they had seen "**his star in the east**".

From where

2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 2:5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus **it is written by the prophet**, 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of

in the "**east**" did they come?

How many men were there?

How did they know what “his star” looked like?

2:3 – 2:6

Why did the Jewish leaders readily tell Herod where the King was located?

Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 2:9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their

2:7

Why did Herod want to know "what time the star appeared" and why is no answer given to that question in this account?

2:9 – 2:12

Knowing Herod had bad motives in wanting to locate the King, why did the star lead the men directly to the young child?

Did God allow innocent children to be killed by an

treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. 2:13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 2:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent

evil leader?

Prophecies Fulfilled:

Matthew 2:

- 5,6
- 15
- 16-18
- 23

Royal Travels:

From Bethlehem of Judea to Egypt

To just inside Israel

forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 2:17 Then was **fulfilled** that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. 2:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 2:20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 2:21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did

To Galilee of Israel

To Nazareth of Israel.

reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

In reading Scripture (with a heart to understand) it's not unusual to have questions. Questions such as, "why did God allow innocent babies to be killed" and "why did Joseph and Mary have to go through all of those stresses and changes?" are reasonable queries and asking such should be validated—even where inquiries cannot be easily answered or explained.

One note about this passage is worth remembering. Not only are God's thoughts and ways, not the same as those of humans, but this gives a clear picture of how unbalanced, unstable, unclear, and unfair Believers may find their own situations. Often, lives which are set to bring glory to God, do not operate as smoothly as one may desire.

Sometimes God is doing things that may bring us great sadness and pain. Sometimes we just can't understand what's happening or know what to do any more than Mary and Joseph did until the Lord directs and brings events into the exact position as God would have it.

We need to remain open to, and faithful in, God's guidance concerning all plans, prophecies, and places we may find ourselves.

As with Many and Joseph, it may be, in our own lives, that God is less interested in our comfort and convience than in our calling.

January 3

Ecclesiasticus 34:1,2 (1611 KJV)
"Winds & Shadows"

1 The hopes of a man void of understanding are vain, and false: and dreams lift up fools.
2 Who so regardeth dreams, is like him that catcheth at a shadow, and followeth after the wind.

This passage addresses the uselessness of hopes, desires, dreams, wishes, and aspirations in those who have **no understanding**.

Have you ever seen an animal, for example, chase its own shadow? That creature can be as focused, hopeful, and as determined as is possible, but of course the effort is futile because the beast lacks the fundamental understanding that shadows cannot be caught.

Similarly, there are people who love to follow the blowing winds, the often

deceptiveness, of dreams. Such dreams lift them up. They make those people feel great. They give them a sense of a “positive self esteem”, but as this passage warns, “dreams lift up fools”.

These scriptural verses further exhort that when those who have no understanding regard dreams, they are uselessly expending energy.

Those who are without understanding but who put so much faith, trust, and hope in dreams are as if they are trying to follow winds and are attempting to grab shadows.

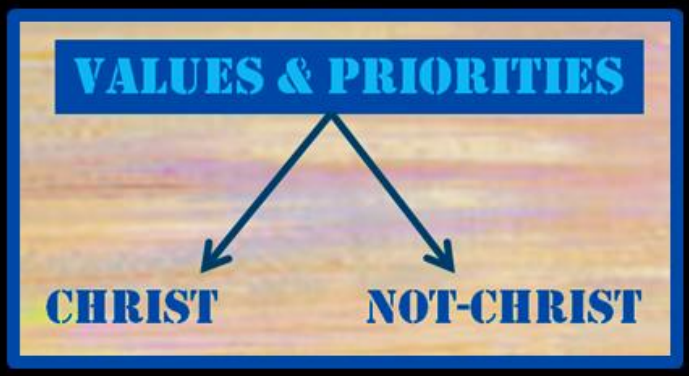
Believers are neither to be void of understanding, nor to put faith in dreams. Our faith should be in the Most High.

January 4

Matthew 19:16-24

“Values & Priorities”

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow



me. [22] But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. [23] Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. [24] And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Think About It

☐ Jesus responded to a question. He said: Why are you calling me good. There's only one who is good and that's God. Some have interpreted this to mean Jesus was making an emphatic statement that no human was good. However, Job, for example, was said to have been "perfect and upright…" and Psalms 37:23 says the steps of a "good man" are ordered by the Lord. See Psalms 112 and Proverbs 12. Also, it is said that Enoch was so good that God removed him from earth. (Genesis 5:24). So, that could not be the correct interpretation. The passage could not mean that no human has ever been "good".

Perhaps Jesus said that to mean, “either you’re just trying to flatter me or since you’re calling me ‘good’, you must be acknowledging me as one in authority. If so, you’ll hear and do what I say”. It may have been said sarcastically as Jesus detected the man’s actual level of commitment.

☐ Why didn’t Jesus list all of the ten commandments? Why were only five of the ten and one of the “two great commandments” mentioned? Was this an error in translation? Were there only six commandments originally? (Exodus 20).

Did Jesus simply do an overview of the commandments to save time? Was Jesus saying only what the man needed to hear? Does it just depend on where this story is read? (Mark 10:17-22 and Luke 18:18-23).

☐ Was Jesus demonstrating that some people won’t let go of earthly possessions in exchange for heavenly treasure?

☐ Was Jesus a social radical who was against wealth and the wealthy? Was he, instead, showing that while some may know the protocol of saying the right things to the right people, they, in fact, have completely opposing motivations for a supposed pursuit of paradise?

Is it that the very values and priorities of some were, and are, antithetical to Christ's teachings?

These are just a few questions to consider, but, what does the Holy Ghost speak to YOU regarding values and priorities?

January 5

Isaiah 55:8,9
“Thoughts & Ways”

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Best Reminder Ever!

God’s thoughts and ways are NOT human. The way God sees and does things is *not even close* to that of human beings.

There is an extremely vast gulf of difference in how Creator thinks and behaves versus how Creator’s creations think and behave. That think-act gap between the Most High and humans is “as the heavens are higher than the earth”.

Fully grasping this doctrine may be among

the most important and needful endeavors for humankind. We need to fully comprehend that we are not, nor will ever BE, nor will ever THINK exactly as YHVH. Neither our “thoughts” nor our “ways” will ever be exactly as God’s. We are not even close to God’s level.

Regardless to all of the “positive confession”, “you are gods”, “you’re a goddess”, “build your self-esteem”, “create your own reality”, “me first” selfish, illogical, satanically-rooted philosophies which permeate westernized cultures, we are not God and can never be God.

We, humans, will never have thoughts and ways exactly as Great Spirit.

Understanding everything through this truthful lens of reality will enhance our current lives on earth which may, in turn, affect our future “lives” beyond this existence.

January 6

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:1-54

"David & Goliath"

Outline:

a. YHVH's Selection 16:1-13
b. Goliath Challenges 17:1-11
c. David's Curiosity 17:12-27
d. David's Confidence 17:28-39
e. David's Victory 17:40-54

Though this is only an outline. A significant point in the account of David's early years is that things are not always as they appear.

The oldest in age, the strongest, the biggest, the richest, the most popular, the most attractive, the most educated, the most talented, etc... may not be the one who has the faith, the courage, and the love for God to do what is needed on behalf of the Most High.

Often, God does not choose those whom humans hail as ideal. The account of David and Goliath is irrefutable proof of that.

January 7

Ecclesiasticus 27:4

“Trash Detection”

As when one sifteth with a sieve, the refuse remaineth, so the filth of man and his talk.

When one filters (separates & carefully examines) all of the fanciful & lofty words, exaggerated accounts, and grandiose talking of a person, the filth (vulgar, foolishness, warped and/or wicked thinking) is left to be revealed for what it is. This verse is about actively listening. It is wisdom regarding discernment of what people say as opposed to what they are really thinking and feeling.

Here, we have a simile of sifting, for example, flour. Using a mesh, hand-held sifter, one shakes the culinary utensil which has been filled with cooking flour. Back and forth the flour is shaken. As that is done, a thinner amount of flour drops beneath the sifter. However, not all of the flour falls.

Lumpy bits of flour stay in the sifter.
In cooking, that portion is considered inedible;
it's the bad part.
That "refuse" remains.

That's "the filth" of a person's words.
It just stays there as trash.
It is through careful listening—
listening with spiritual ears,
that one is able to separate what is good from
what is bad.

For real Believers,
the Holy Spirit is
the ultimate trash-
detection system.

Just as a sifter
detects, so to
speak, the good
flour from the bad
flour and leaves the
bad flour remaining plainly recognizable, so
does the filth of a person and the filth of a
person's words. It all remains. It all can be
clearly seen. With godly spiritual ears, one can
detect what is the "trash" of a person.

January 8

Revelation 20:1-5

"The 1st Resurrection"

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him *a thousand years*, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit , and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till *the thousand years* should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ *a thousand years*. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until *the thousand years* were finished.

This is the <u>first</u> resurrection.

ALL FOR THOUGHT

□ What are the real meanings of "**the beast**", its "**mark**" and "**image**", "**the dragon**", and "**that old serpent, the devil and Satan**"? Do any of these titles and/or actual people change approximately every generation in order to maintain mystery to humans as well as to spirits?

□ What's the meaning of the **descending angel** who was holding a great **chain** and **the key** to **the bottomless pit**?

□ Has what is described in the passage already happened or is it something that will occur later? Will it happen more than once? Is it all merely metaphorical?

□ Will some dead people remain dead for a thousand years while some *other* dead people live again during that same one thousand years?

We will have to dig much more deeply to gain greater understanding of "the first resurrection".

January 9

2 Corinthians 11:4
"Another Gospel"

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

This passage addresses the level of spiritual maturity regarding some Believers of that day. It applies to this period of time as well.

The writer was saying: You all really don't seem to understand the seriousness of what's happening. I'm concerned that you won't be able to overcome the treacherous tricks of false doctrine with which you may be faced.
I'm afraid, for your sake, that if someone approaches you with anti-Christ messages, you'll fall for them. You will be deceived by any number of teachings that are against Christ, whether it be the Emergent Church, or Seeker Sensitive, or New-Age Theology, etc. Whatever the term, it's the same

thing. It is “another gospel”. It’s a different “Jesus” and a different “spirit” as confirmed by a different gospel, or as this passage says, “another gospel”, which is not of the ancient, holy Scriptures of Yahweh.

It is the spirit which has penetrated and infiltrated probably *most* North American congregations, regardless to the particular denomination, both “cult” as well as so-called “mainstream” churches.

Many places are not teaching or living biblical godliness even where their religious organizations are called “Christian”.

They don’t even *know* what the gospel *IS*. They do not share it, and they definitely do not live it. They, and those like them, attract the types of people who are extremely vulnerable to countless deceptions. Whether religious, political, social, or economical, they push their deeply-rooted principles of another Jesus, and another spirit, and another gospel.

Now, just as it was when these words were written, the danger of embracing another gospel is real.

January 10

Colossians 1:9-11

“A Prayer 4 U”

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

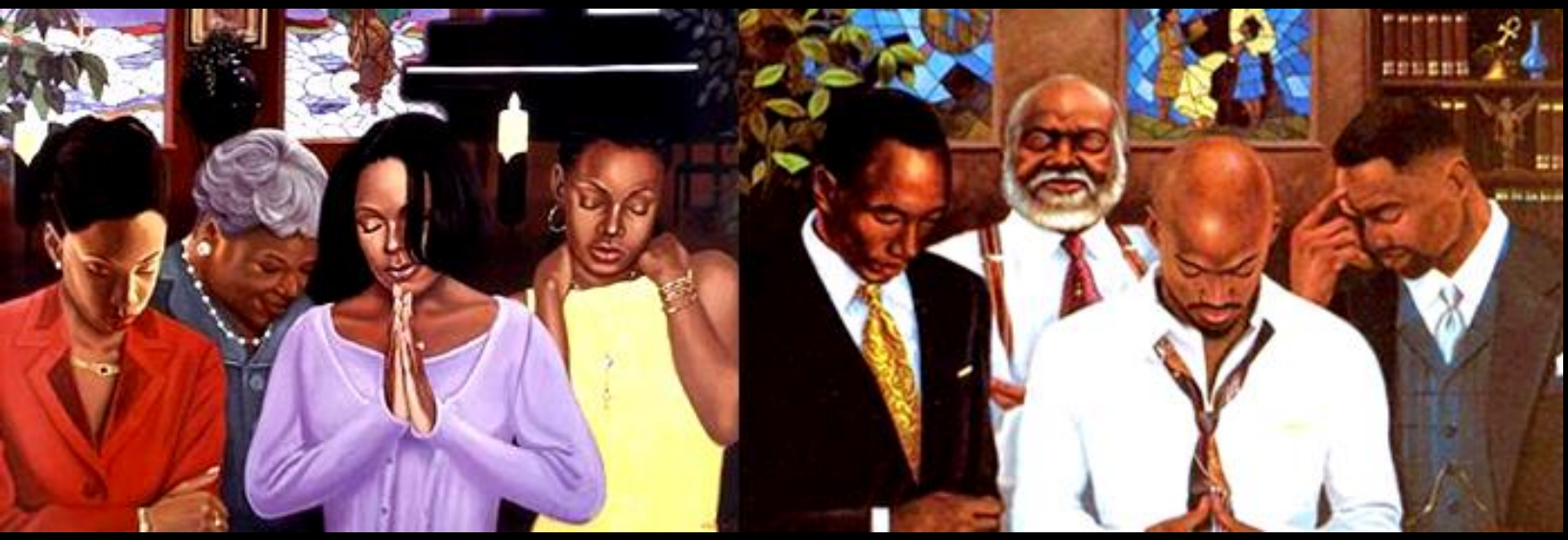
PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I come on behalf of my sisters and brothers.

I unceasingly pray that they may be filled with the knowledge of Your will. Please allow wisdom and understanding to grow within their minds and hearts. Guide their steps

that they may walk honorably. Lead them to paths which are pleasing to You. Let their actions be productive in every good thing. Help them to know You better as each day passes. Greatly strengthen them, Lord, as only You can do by Your wonderful power. Build within them the highest levels of patience and tolerance with joyfulness—even during the various challenges of life. I ask these things in Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus, the Messiah). Amen.

Based on today's Colossians passage, this is a prayer for you, dear follower of Christ.



January 11

Ecclesiasticus 3:26
"Danger-Lover"

A stubborn heart shall fare evil at the last, and he that loveth danger shall perish therein.

Stubbornness, a propensity for danger, and death (physical or spiritual) seem to go hand-in-hand.

This verse speaks of a connection between stubbornness and a craving for hazardous or risky situations. It warns that both conditions, an inflexible, rebellious mindset and a passion for danger, yield the same consequence—a bad ending "at the last".

It's good advice for one to be self-checked concerning any possible, surface or deeply-embedded, resistance to doing what is right,

which is stubbornness.

Being stubborn is similar to loving danger.

When a person is stubborn, it's as if he or she is "asking for it"—inviting trouble.

The point is that stubbornness is dangerous.

However, stubbornness is not the same as being committed to a good cause or being determined to do something that is right (by God's standards). Contrarily, stubbornness is a mule-like, fight to do just the opposite of what is right. It's the digging in of the heels on a position or stance that is usually rooted in selfishness and/or foolishness.

When people are willful they are, essentially, lovers of danger which, in one way or another, will lead to

some form of death such as
the *death* of a good relationship,
the *death* of a good career, the
death of advancement opportunities
and, of course, plain old
no-more-breath *death*, meaning to perish.

While this may be related to the so-called dare-devils who want to show off how many parked cars they can clear in their motorcycles or those who think they can befriend violently deadly land or water creatures such as lions or sharks, this may be a deeper level of understanding of this part of

Scripture.

The human heart can be stubborn by nature.

Unless we personally and genuinely submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, any of us, at any time, can be found displaying the characteristics of a danger-loving "stubborn heart". Anyone, in everyday situations, can exhibit just how much of a danger-lover they really are, through ungodly words, attitudes, decisions, and actions.

Rejecting the gift of salvation, for example, could be thought of as a danger-loving way of life. Scriptures tell us that such stubbornness, such danger-lover type decision will lead to eternal death.

So, in all possible ways of understanding this passage, let's not aspire to be a danger-lover.

January 12

1 Peter 1:4,5
"Kept By The Power of God"

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Question:
How does the true Believer view salvation?

Answer:
We, true Believers, know we are **kept**, not by our own power, but rather **by the power of God** through faith all the way to eternal salvation.

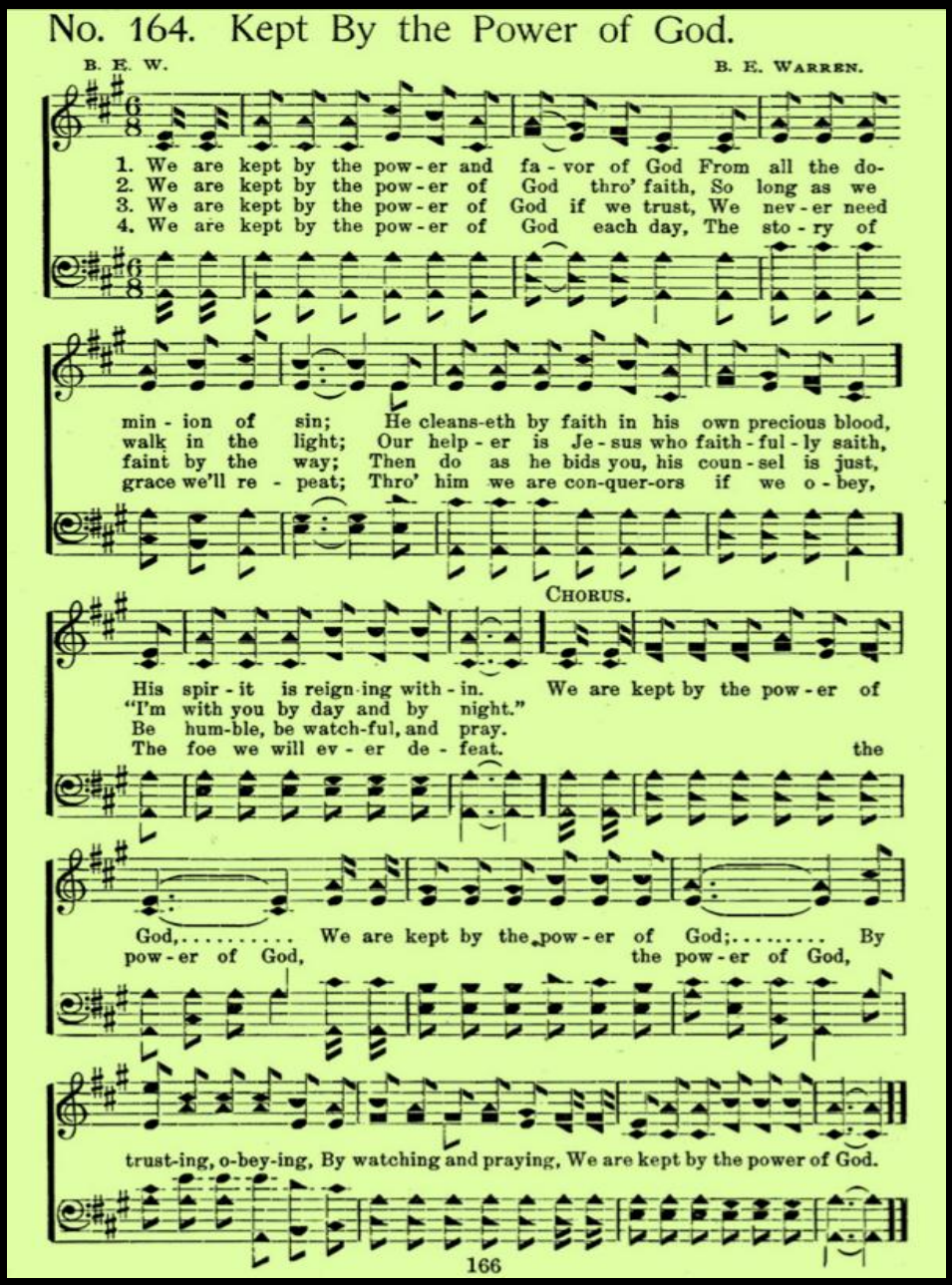
There is a religious hymn entitled, "Kept by the Power of God". Everything seems fine except there may be an issue with the chorus lyrics:

We are kept by the power of God
We are kept by the power of God
By trusting, obeying, by watching and praying,
We are kept by the power of God.

Initially, that may all seem fine—even wholesome. However, **are we** kept by the power of God ALONE

or are we kept by the power of God AND, “by trusting, obeying, by watching and praying”?

As subtle as it is, the doctrine of **“faith plus”** as opposed to **“faith alone”** seems to be embedded right into the song.



Of course there’s nothing at all wrong with trusting, obeying, watching, and praying.

Those are all scripturally sound actions.

Nonetheless, are those actions, in addition to faith, the way we are kept?

Are there any actions, behaviors, or works, in addition to faith, necessary for gaining or maintaining salvation?

So you'll start out with faith (spiritual), then think you need to continue with some work (flesh)?

Galatians 3:3
Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

The Believer does, indeed, trust, obey, watch, as well as pray, but he or she will need to determine whether or not those actions are **products of**, **or instead requirements for**, being saved and being kept.

Are we **kept by the power of God through faith** ALONE?

If the lyrics of the chorus were:
"We are trusting, obeying.
We are watching and praying…"

That may be more accurate according to some scriptural verses such as this one.

Changing those lyrics in that way would eliminate the slightest suggestion that Believers are kept BY, or as a result of, doing those listed things.

We are doing those things, but are we kept *because of* (or *by)* those things (through faith) along with being kept by the power of God?

Let's keep our spiritual ears open that we may continue to be guided BY THE POWER OF GOD.

January 13

Hebrews 10:38, 39

"Soul-saving Belief"

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

What does it mean to "**draw back unto perdition**"? In context to the rest of the passage, it means to go backward to the wrong understanding concerning eternal damnation vs. eternal salvation by faith.

Once a person fully comprehends that there is absolutely NOTHING an individual can do (works) to earn eternal salvation (as Jesus said, it's impossible with men) one realizes that it is only by faith that one is saved. Unfortunately, some people may semi-understand that, but still waiver when they hear a strong message about hell. They "draw back" or mentally move in

opposition to the faith message. They revert to their old ways of any number of works-based beliefs such as mandatory church attendance, expected or even demanded tithing, long sleeves, long or short hair lengths (depending on one's gender), and specific dietary rules as payment for or as points toward salvation.

What each of us has to ask ourselves and be certain of, is whether or not we draw back unto perdition (regressive, repressive, and futile ways of understanding salvation). Do we, on the other hand, believe in Christ to the saving of our souls?

Genuine, heart-felt, committed belief in God, which is also known as "faith in God", is soul-saving.

January 14

Romans 10: 8,9

"The Word of Faith"

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

THE WORD is so close to you—
so accessible to you, that it is in your very mouth and heart! This is the word of faith.

"The word of faith" is not some charismatic denomination.
The "word of faith" is this:

If one confesses the Lord Jesus with one's mouth and believes,

from one's heart, that God has raised Jesus from the dead, that one will be eternally saved.

This is a powerful message of salvation. It also shows that no Bible is "the Word" or "the Word of God".

THE WORD was preached concerning faith. THE WORD is the message of God and from God; never any Bible—regardless to the version.

The Word of Faith is The Message of Faith in Jesus.

January 15

Ephesians 2:8,9(AKJV)

"Eph. 2:8,9 Grace/Faith-Saved"

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. (AKJV, 1666/1769)

This passage should be a major part of every Believer's arsenal of memory verses and constant reminders.

Understanding these two verses will get and keep many out of so much doctrinal error! Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 8 and 9 should be recited even more frequently than preschoolers and kindergarteners practice the letters of the alphabet.

Each aspect of these verses should be deeply planted and sewn within the warp and weft of every Believers' soul.

Matthew's Bible, 1537

For by grace are
ye made safe thorowe fayth/and that not of
youre selues. For it is the gyfte of God/and
commeth not of workes/lest eny man shulde
boast him selfe.

For by grace are ye made safe through faith, and that not of yourselves. **For it** is the gift of God, and commeth not of works, lest any man should boast himself.

Coverdale, 1535

For by gra
ce are ye saued thorow faith, and that not
of youre selues, For it is ye gifte of God, not
of workes, lest eny mã shulde boast him selfe.

For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, **for it** is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast himself.

Great Bible, 1540

For by grace are ye made
safe thorow fayth, and that not of youre sel-
ues. It is the gyfte of God, and cõmeth not
of workes, lest eny mã shulde boast him selfe.

For by grace are ye made safe through faith, and that not of yourselves. **It** is the gift of God, and commeth not of works, lest any man should boast himself.

Salvation results from God's grace.

This unearned favor and one's faith **connect**.
Salvation is "not of yourselves". That means
you did not and can never earn it in any way.

It is the **GIFT** of God.

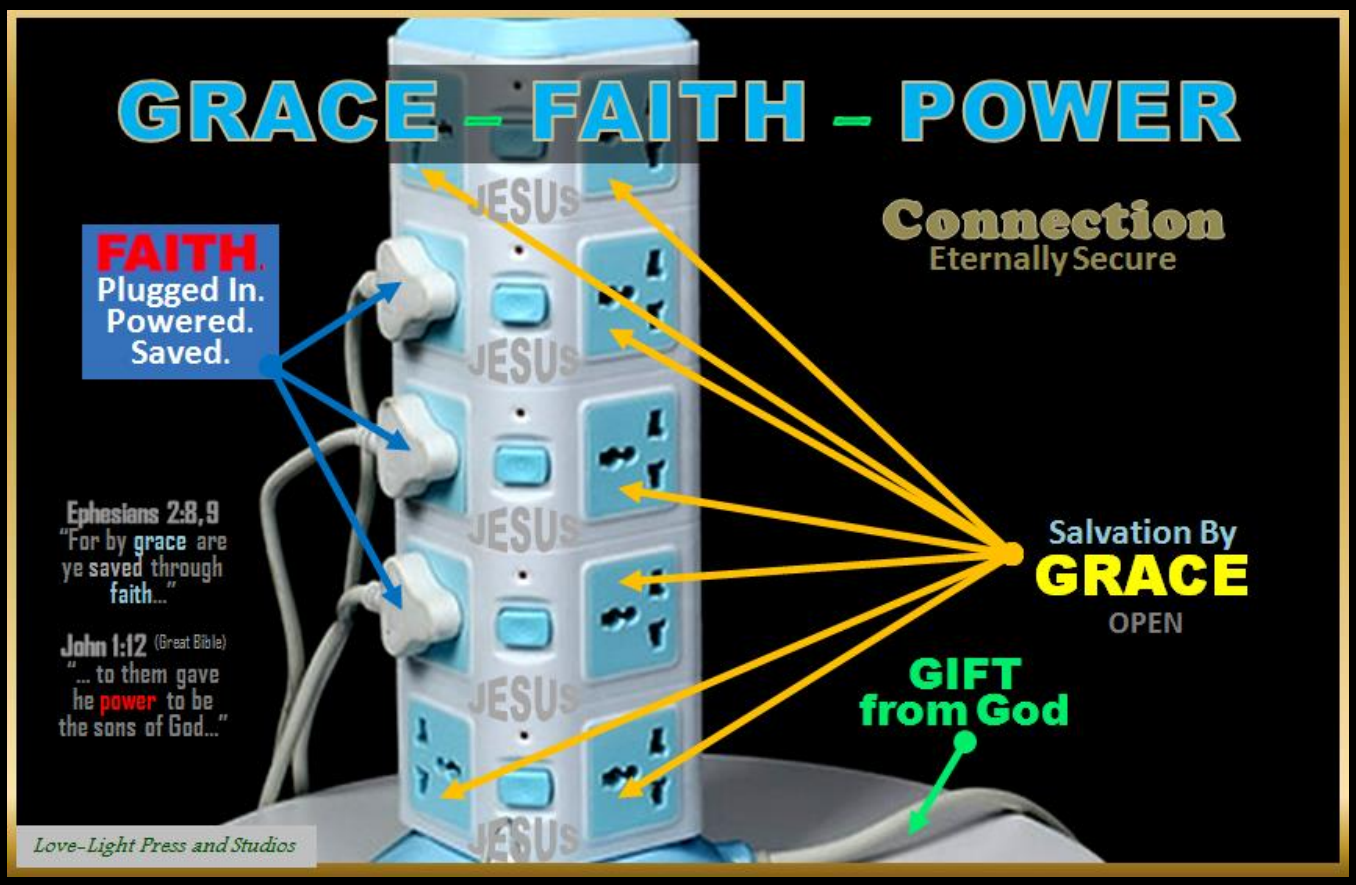
As plainly as Ephesians 2:8,9 make it, some still dispute whether or not salvation must be earned by mandatory works. They debate what is considered a requirement. Some even argue whether or not souls are pre-saved (or pre-damned) before birth.

Any devaluing or rejection of these 2 verses leave many feeling as if they never have any choice or as if they never have any assurance concerning salvation.

Look at Ephesians 2:8, 9 in relation to *John 1:12
[But as many as received him, to them gave he **power**
to become the sons of God, even to
them that believe on his name:]

**Note: You won't find the word "power" from this verse in many modern versions. Some use "right", but it's not the same as "power". Quick example: You have many rights, but without proper legal representation, i.e. a good attorney, your rights mean nothing. A good attorney makes sure you can exercise your rights and gives you the needed power to win your case.*

View the illustration below to see the
Grace – Faith – Power CONNECTION:



The 3 connected power chords (blue arrows) represent True Believers who have acted in faith. They are connected to him who gives spiritual power—
"POWER to be the sons of God" (Great Bible, 1540).

Openings are for others to connect (yellow arrows). Those may also receive salvation by GRACE through faith in the Savior. The UNIVERSAL Power Tower (for all nations) is available but is neither forced nor automatic. The gift from God may be received only by individuals willingly connecting chords (souls) through faith.

Plugged in; Powered; Eternally Charged –OR– instead, Unplugged; Unpowered; Eternally Dead. It is a choice.

January 16

Genesis, chapters 6-8
"Noah, the Ark, & the Flood"

Chapter 6 ...**Make thee an ark** of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch...

Chapter 7 ...[2] **Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.** [3] Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. [4] For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth **forty days and forty nights**; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. [5] And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. [6] And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth...

Chapter 8 ...[6] And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: [7] And he sent forth **a raven**, which went

forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. [8] Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; [9] But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth...

Things to Consider

. What might be the reason there were far more "clean" creatures than those which were not clean (unclean) on the ark?

. Does this account indicate that every human who was born after this event, came from the

same family? If so, why do some humans label people with different shades of skin as being from different so-called “races”? Were not all humans created by the same God, and from the same matter, dust, even from the beginning?

. Would a loving God destroy the whole earth and nearly all that He, Himself, created?

. Does this account give any clues about the earth and how long it has existed?

January 17

2 Esdras 8:3

“Creation & Salvation: Many vs. Few”

There be many created,
but few shall be saved.

MANY vs. FEW is a **repeated theme** throughout the scriptures.

Almost everything in life centers around “the majority” or the highest number of someone or something, such as everybody’s doing it, buying it, watching it, reading it, eating it, wearing it, going to it, or even talking about it—whatever that “it” may be at any given time.

If an online post “goes viral”, it has received a very high number of views and, of course, that’s to be applauded… so we’re told.

Generally speaking, “few” is not the preferred option—unless it’s in reference to few calories or few problems.

This verse (as shown from the 1611 King James Version reveals that
when it comes to those who are saved as compared to the number of those made,
many are created, but only a few are saved.

If EVERY PATH led to God/Salvation/Eternal Life, the entrance would not be tight, the way would not be narrow, and far more than just a FEW would find it.

Meditate On: **Matthew 7:13, 14** AKJV

2 Esdras 8:1-3 1611 KJV

And he answered me, saying, The most High hath made this world for many, but the world to come for few. I will tell thee a similitude, Esdras; As when thou askest the earth, it shall say unto thee, that it giveth much mould whereof earthen vessels are made, but little dust that gold cometh of: even so is the course of this present world. There be many created, but few shall be saved.

2 Esdras 8:62(a)

These things have I not shewed unto all men, but unto thee, and a **few** like thee.

2 Esdras 8:1-3 Great Bible, 1540

And he answered me, saying, The most high made this world for **many**, but the world to come for **few**. I will tell thee a similitude, Esdras. As when thou asketh the earth, it shalt say unto ye, that it giveth **much** mold, whereof earthen vessels are made, but **little** of it that gold commeth of. Even so is it with the work of this world. There be **many** created, but **few** shall be preserved.

2 Esdras 8:62(a)

These things have I not shewed unto all men, but unto **few**, namely unto thee, and to such as be like thee.

2 Esdras 8:1-3; 62

Good News Bible with Deuterocanonicals/ Apocrypha

The angel replied, "God Most High made this world for **many** people, but the future world for only a **few**. Ezra, let me give you an illustration. If you ask the earth, it will tell you that it produces **a large amount** of clay for pots but **only a small amount** of gold dust. And that's the way it is with the present world: **many** have been created, but only a **few** will be saved."

I have made this known to you and a **few** others like you, but not to everyone."

The matter of many vs. few,
especially in relation to salvation,
is worthy of thought.
It really is something one may
seek to think deeply about
in today's times where people are
commonly told, "a loving God" is
sending everyone to heaven and
everyone is (or will be) saved.
No soul, we're told, will suffer
in that *bad place*—
if such even exists.

Some contend that, after all,
the majority
could not spend eternity
in *the bad place*?
God wouldn't allow that!

Does Scripture provide
"many vs. few"
passages for a reason—
as a warning, perhaps?

January 18

Susanna 1:22, 23

"Choices: Best of Worse"

22 Then Susanna sighed, and said, I am straitened on every side: for if I do this thing, it is death unto me: and if I do it not I cannot escape your hands. 23 It is better for me to fall into your hands, and not do it, than to sin in the sight of the Lord.

When faced with dire, seemingly no-win situations, this is how True Believers may sometimes reason within. She or he has to decide who is to be sided **with** and who is to be sided **against**.

When set up and falsely accused, Susanna basically said, "I'm in a really bad situation. I'm doomed if I do and I'm doomed if I don't. Though I'll end up dying, it's still better to take the side of not doing something against God. It's better to be killed by you folks, than to sin. For the sake of righteousness, I'm choosing the best of the worse of the available options. I'm choosing to die innocently, while staying of God's side."

Even within the worst options, may we all make the best choices.

Freely read the complete account of Susanna at **the1611.weebly.com**.

January 19

Bel and the Dragon 1:3-5

“You Gotta’ Serve Somebody”

3 Now the Babylons had an idol, called Bel, and there were spent upon him every day twelve great measures of fine flour, and forty sheep, and six vessels of wine. 4 And the king worshipped it and went daily to adore it: but Daniel worshipped his own God. And the king said unto him, Why dost not thou worship Bel? 5 Who answered and said, Because I may not worship idols made with hands, but the living God, who hath created the heaven and the earth, and hath sovereignty over all flesh.

Are there leaders of our time who practice various forms of Baal worship or devotion to unholy entities? The king, during the time of this account, worshipped an idol called Baal. This king worshipped and adored the idol every single day. However, Daniel chose to only worship the Living God.

It may seem strange, at least to some people, that there are those who actually worship hand-made idols and animals. Some people do not just have an appreciation for works of art, for example, or an affection for various creatures. They go as far as to worship, to bow down to, and pray to animals and things which were created by other humans. Such behavior may seem really bizarre.

Nonetheless, whether it be a thing, person, or place, many do commonly idolize and worship someone or something rather than God alone. Even people who claim to be non-religious can be found worshipping careers, celebrities, possessions, hobbies, sports teams, and even mates, children, and pets.

Maybe the urge to worship is a part of the nature of humans. ♫Perhaps, the words of an old secular song have some validity: *It may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you gotta' serve somebody*.

As Daniel believed and practiced, the genuine Believer only serves "the living God" who has created the heaven and the earth, and has control over all flesh.

January 20

2 Maccabees 1:24-29

“Prayer to the Creator of All Things”

24 And the prayer was after this manner;
O Lord, Lord God, Creator of all things,
who art fearful and strong, and righteous, and
merciful, and the only and gracious King,
25 The only giver of all things, the only just,
almighty, and everlasting, thou that deliverest
Israel from all trouble, and didst choose the
fathers, and sanctify them:
26 Receive the sacrifice for thy whole people
Israel, and preserve thine own portion, and
sanctify it.
27 Gather those together that are scattered from
us, deliver them that serve among the heathen,
look upon them that are despised and
abhorred, and let the heathen know that thou
art our God.
28 Punish them that oppress us, and with pride
do us wrong. 29 Plant thy people again in thy
holy place, as Moses hath spoken.

This is how the prayer went and what it meant: YHVH, You are the CREATOR of all things. You are worthy of great reverence and you're powerful, righteous, merciful and you are so generous. You give all things and are the only one who is fair, full of might, and everlasting.

You have delivered Israel from trouble in the past and you also selected the fathers of Israel and separated them for your own purpose.

Please accept this sacrifice for all of Israel. Preserve and sanctify her because she is personally your own.

Gather those of us who have been scattered and deliver those who are in bondage in heathen lands. Take notice of those who are despised and hated by the heathens and let them know
you are our God. Punish those who oppress us and who wrong us. Secure your people in your holy place. Reconnect us just as Moses has said.

That is a prayer which is still worth praying to the Creator of all things.

January 21

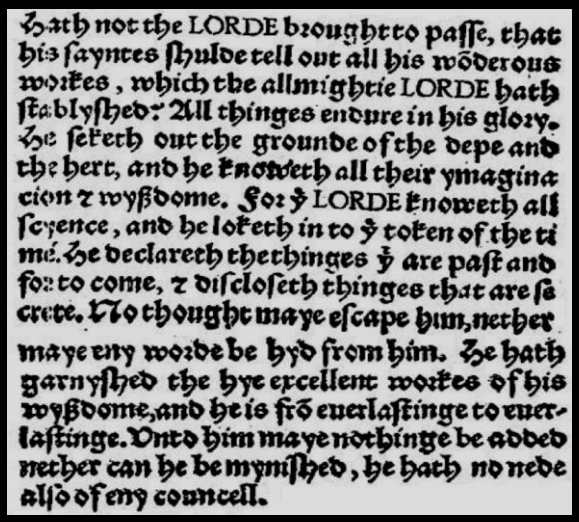
Ecclesiasticus 42:17-21
“Declare!”

(1611 KJV) 17 The Lord hath ~~not~~ given power to the saints to declare all his marvelous works, which the Almighty Lord firmly settled, that whatsoever is, might be established for his glory. 18 He seeketh out the deep and the heart, and considereth their crafty devices: for the Lord knoweth all that may be known, and he beholdeth the signs of the world. 19 He declareth the things that are past, and for to come, and revealeth the steps of hidden things. 20 No thought escapeth him, neither any word is hidden from him. 21 He hath garnished the excellent works of his wisdom, and he is from everlasting to everlasting, unto him may nothing be added, neither can he be diminished, and he hath no need of any counselor.

Question: Why is there a strikethrough mark on the word “not”?

Answer: There is a significant discrepancy between the 1611 and earlier versions concerning this verse. The 1611

is in the negative (God has NOT...) whereas all earlier English versions are in the affirmative (God has...). See: Geneva, 1560; Great Bible, 1540; Coverdale, 1535.


Hath not the LORDE brought to passe, that
his sayntes shulde tell out all his wōderous
workes, which the allmightie LORDE hath
stablyshed? All thinges endure in his glory.
He seketh out the grounde of the depe and
the hert, and he knoweth all their ymagina
cion & wyßdome. For ȳ LORDE knoweth all
scyence, and he loketh in to ȳ toke of the ti
me. He declareth the thinges ȳ are past and
for to come, & disclosetheth thinges that are se
crete. No thought maye escape him, nether
maye eny worde be hyd from him. He hath
garnyshed the hye excellent workes of his
wyßdome, and he is frō euerlastinge to euer-
lastinge. Vnto him maye nothinge be added
nether can he be mynished, he hath no nede
also of eny councell.

Hath not the LORD brought to pass, that his saints should tell out all his wonderous works, which the almighty LORD hath stablished? All things endure in his glory. He setteth out the ground of the deep and the heart, and he knoweth all their imagination and wisdom. For the LORD knoweth all science, and looketh into the token of the time. He declareth the things that are past and for to come, and discloseth things that are secret. No thought may escape him, neither may any word be hid from him. He hath garnished the high excellent works of his wisdom, and he is from everlasting to everlasting. Unto him may nothing be added neither can he be minished, he hath no need also of any councel.

Great Bible, 1540 (verse 17)

Hath not the Lord brought to pass, and his saints should tell out all his wonderous works, which the Almighty Lord hath stablished? All things endure in his glory.

Geneva, 1560 (verse 17)

Hath not the Lord appointed that his Saints should declare all his wonderous works, which the almighty Lord hath stablished to confirm all things by in his majesty?

Clarification:

From the 1611 KJV, I initially interpreted the passage to mean God has NOT given to the saints the ability to declare God's marvelous works. Upon initial study of this passage, I came to that conclusion because the 1611 states, "**The Lord hath not given power to the saints to declare all his marvelous works…**" I thought, "Maybe God wants to make known all of His amazing works Himself or maybe the Lord prevents his saints from declaring his works, so that only He will receive glory."

By the grace of God, however, I was led to a clearer, more contextual, and much more reasonable understanding. It's plain throughout Scripture, as well as in modern daily life, that God DOES allow the saints to declare his works. That's what we do… or should be doing. That's a part of spreading the gospel message—telling (and showing) how God sent His Son to save us all from inherited sin. That's a marvelous work! We certainly may declare it!

Nonetheless, the 1611 says the Lord has NOT given power to the saints to declare all his marvelous works. Does it mean the saints can only declare SOME, but not ALL? Does it mean the saints overstep God's authority when they declare God's glory? That would really be ridiculous. So we have to dig deeper.

As I sought the Lord for help in understanding this, I found myself looking at even older versions. It was the Great Bible that spelled out things better when it showed that part of the verse was a question rather than a statement.

"Hath not the Lord…?," (as a question) as opposed to, "The Lord hath not…" (as a statement) changes the meaning greatly. The older versions' writing was a rhetorical question used as a matter of emphasis. It's similar to saying, "Is grass not green? Is the sun not bright? Is water not wet?" Obviously you can't logically turn those questions around and make them statements such as, "Grass is not green." or "The sun is not bright…" But that's what may have happened with at least one copy of the 1611 KJV. It appears that when the translators switched from

question to statement, the "not" was mistakenly kept, thereby completely reversing the original meaning.

Why So Much Attention to this Passage?

I wanted to understand this passage as I desire to understand all of what is considered Scripture. However, I later discovered something of even greater importance. More and more frequently, I am seeing the extreme value of having access to several biblical sources— and the older, the better. Particularly when it comes to apocryphal books, my understanding has been strengthened by utilizing older versions. I am also learning that it is intensely crucial to readily hear the Holy Spirit's guidance and to take heed HOW I hear (Luke 8:18).

Further, this is another very apparent example of how no single Bible version could possibly be "God's Word" (as if *everything* written is directly from God). I'm definitely not saying much can't be gained from reading and receiving Scripture. We must, however, stay mindful that Bible versions, even Textus Receptus translations, are *versions* of other writings and, as such, have the potential for various issues. We need to

understand that all Scripture must be “rightly divided” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Finally, I am reminded that when hearing what we believe to be Scripture, with or without the books of the Apocrypha, we must come in the correct spirit. We shouldn’t come to God’s messages for His people with a wrong approach such as brooding or worrying about other issues, disinterest, hypocrisy, or with egotism such as an, “I already know that” attitude. If we put up blocks, we’ll be blocked. The seed will not fall on good ground and it will not grow. Therefore, we will not grow. We must come “as little children” and be willing to go in whatever direction the Holy Spirit takes us—even when that way is unconventional.

So, Yes! Go Ahead.
Tell it! **Declare** it!

The Lord HAS, indeed, given power to the saints to declare all his marvelous works…!

January 22

Ecclesiasticus 23:15

“Common Filth”

The man that is accustomed to opprobrious words, will never be reformed all the days of his life.

opprobrious:
abusive, derogatory, outrageously disgraceful or shameful; words or behavior that is contemptuous, damaging, defamatory, despicable, humiliating, injurious.

When people become very comfortable using filthy, profane language, words, or even actions, it’s very difficult for them to stop doing it. Often, they don’t believe they need to be “reformed” because they’re okay with their words and actions.

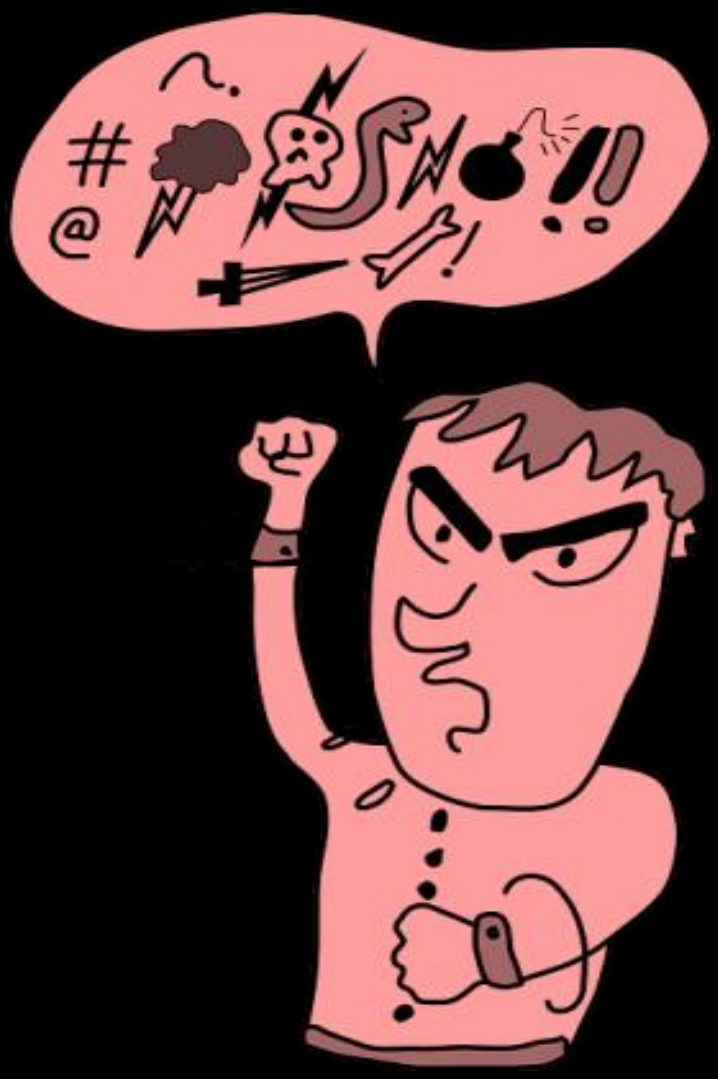
Sadly, a lot of people don’t even know they’re actually cursing or using profanity

and it's nearly pointless to tell them. They are usually so accustomed to "swearing", for example, that they seem oblivious to what they're saying. Of course the opposite is sometimes the case. Some may become defensive if corrected and may intentionally become more vulgar.

Believe it or not, there are many social environments in North America, including schools for children, where the usage of profane speaking is allowed and even encouraged. Vulgarity is most certainly pushed. I've been on jobs where talk about religion, specifically Christianity, was frowned upon or was even forbidden. Profanity, however, was very much allowed and freely used.

There's a possibility that an evil spirit makes some people ratchet-nasty in their behavior and speech. Whether the reason is due to prolonged wicked physical influences, such as being around people

who are behaving badly, or that of a spiritual nature (evil spirits), or both, the end result for any who are past a certain point, is that there is no chance of correction. See Romans 1:28-32 "...reprobate mind...".



Sometimes people deliberately try to learn to use profanity so they will be more popular. Regardless to the reason, the result is not good when people practice common filth.

Though many slip right into it, they discover that it is harder to stop than it was to start and they may "never be reformed" of common filth.

January 23

Ecclesiasticus 2:1-3

“Prepare for Temptation”

1 My son, if thou come to serve the Lord, prepare thy soul for temptation.
2 Set thy heart aright, and constantly endure, and make not haste in time of trouble. 3 Cleave unto him, and depart not away, that thou mayest be increased at thy last end.

Count the cost. Plan and calculate situations before they actually occur. Sons, as well as daughters, need to be ready to deal with temptation. Not enough children are taught this foundational principal. That may be so because many parents, teachers, care persons, and religious leaders, themselves, don't know.

When you begin to pursue God, don’t expect all pleasantness—it’s not a leisure cruise.

Have a set plan on how you will respond to challenges which are common to Believers.

Prepare to be tempted hard and don't go the wrong way. Make up your mind to endure great difficulties. Don't rush into decisions during stressful times. Stick tightly to God. Despite how things may appear and feel, trust that situations will work for your ultimate well-being in the end.

Like an educational course, this is prerequisite knowledge for successful godly living. It's severely needed instruction in having a clean and productive godly life where one avoids so many of the pitfalls, set-ups, and snares, which are positioned for Believers.

Because new Believers, of any chronological age, and young people are particularly vulnerable to the tempting traps of the world, they need to be taught how to fully submit their hearts to God and be ready and able to constantly endure. When it comes to serving the Lord, every Believer needs to prepare for temptation.

January 24

Revelation 22:16,17
“Come”

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Jesus was saying:
I have sent my angel to be a witness of these things in the churches. I am the “root and the offspring of David”. I am the “bright and morning star”. The Spirit (of God) and the bride (presently interpreted as the true church) are saying to come. If you’re listening and you’re thirsty, you say it too. You come and tell others to COME. Everybody, just come along and get all the real-LIFE water that you want.

January 25

Psalms 80:3,18,19

“Turn Us Again & Shine”

3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. 18 So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. 19 Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

It’s really good to read all 19 verses of this chapter, but these three get right to the point. This is a prayer of one who sought God’s forgiveness and restoration. It can be a united prayer guide during difficult times:

LORD, please turn us back to where we should be—back to where we loved, revered, and worshipped you from pure hearts. If you would do that, we would be saved from this mess and we won’t keep going backward. Enlighten us and we’ll put our trust in you. Oh LORD, bring us back into your favor and delight.

Shine and we will be saved.

This does not address eternal salvation, but rather speaks of the need to be saved from specific troubles.

Picture, for example, a man trying to talk to a woman who is deeply engaged in reading a book. The man calls the woman's name and begins talking, but the woman merely says, "um huh", while continuing to read. Her face never moves from the pages. The man more aggressively tries to get the woman to show interest. He wants her to look at him—to actually face him.

That's similar to the way it was in this Psalms account. The prayer was a seeking of God's "face"—God's full attention. The request for God's "face to shine" is, not only the need for attention, but also for light in place of darkness; for restoration and deliverance.

What are ways we, today, may need God to turn us again and shine?

January 26

Ecclesiasticus 39:1-3

“Pursuing the Law of the Most High”

1 But he that giveth his mind to
the law of the most high,
and is occupied in the meditation thereof,
seek out the
wisdom of all the ancient,
and be occupied in
prophecies.

2 He will keep the
sayings of the renowned
men: and where
subtle parables
are, he will be there also.

3 He will seek out the
secrets of grave sentences,
and be conversant in
dark parables.

- Are you *really* into the deeper things of God?

- Do you submit your mind to the law of the Most High and stay busy in its meditations?

- Do you search for historical wisdom from former generations?

- Have you tried to follow the sayings of truly successful people—that is to say, those who are successful in godliness?

- Are you constantly contemplating prophecies?

- Do you research to try to find the hidden meanings of deep and spiritual quotations?

- Are you able to hold intelligent conversations regarding mysterious parables?

Those are all efforts which are in pursuit of the law of the Most High.

January 27

Romans 9:4, 30-33

"Who Are Israelites?"

4 Who are Israelites;
to whom pertaineth **the adoption**, and
the glory, and the covenants, and the
giving of the law, and the service of
God, and the promises;

30 What shall we say then?
That **the Gentiles**, which followed not
after righteousness, have attained to
righteousness, even
the righteousness
which is <u>of faith</u>.
31 But Israel, which followed after
the law of righteousness, hath not
attained to the law of righteousness.
32 Wherefore? Because they sought
it **not <u>by faith</u>**, but as it were by the
works of the law.

For they stumbled at
that stumblingstone;
33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion
a stumblingstone and
rock of offence:
and whosoever believeth on him shall
not be ashamed.

Who are the Israelites? What does it mean to be an "Israelite"? When it comes to eternal adoption, concerning the glory and the covenants, when we're talking about the giving of the law, the service of God, and God's promises, who is an Israelite?

Although they did not pursue
righteousness by the law,
the Gentiles obtained righteousness.

How? The Gentiles obtained righteousness by faith. That is the righteousness of faith. So then, all who pursue righteousness by faith are Israelites. That is the case regardless to physical lineage. And, indeed, that is a "stumblingstone". It is a thing which trips up those who put their hope of salvation in either works or in ancestry.

January 28

Acts 9:36-42

“Dead? Not Dead?”

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named
Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this
woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which
she did. 37 And it came to pass in those days, that she
was sick, and died: whom when they had washed,
they laid her in an upper chamber. 38 And forasmuch
as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had
heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two
men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to
them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When
he was come, they brought him into the upper
chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping,
and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas
made, while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them
all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and
turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she
opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.
41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and
when he had called the saints and widows, presented
her alive. 42 And it was known throughout all Joppa;
and many believed in the Lord.

FOR THOUGHT

There are really amazing accounts of miracles in scriptures like this one—from living to dead to living again. It's likely that most of us may not often, *if ever*, see such incidents in modern times. So, what may be the purpose of having such re-telling as part of Scripture?

Is this something churches should aspire to—causing and seeing dead bodies come to life?

What would happen if this kind of thing started occurring around the world? If legitimate and verifiable cases of dead people being brought back to life were known, imagine what might happen.

Is it actually happening but is being covered up from the masses? Does it not happen now, because it never happened? Are there no more major death-to-life miracles beyond the apostles and the "early church"? Maybe if they were rare occurrences then, they are probably just as rare today. Are there other possibilities to explain why we aren't seeing people go from dead to not dead on an everyday basis, or at all?

January 29

1 Kings 18:21-39

“Between Two Beliefs”

21 And Elijah came unto all the people,
and said, **How long halt ye between two
opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him:
but if Baal, then follow him.** And the people
answered him not a word. 22 Then said Elijah unto the
people, **I, even I only**, remain a prophet of the LORD; but
Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. 23 Let them
therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one
bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on
wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other
bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: 24 And
call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name
of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be
God. And all the people answered and said, It is well
spoken. 25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal,
Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first;
for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put
no fire under. 26 And they took the bullock which was given
them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal
from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But
there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped
upon the altar which was made. 27 And it came to pass at
noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is

a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a
journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.
28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their
manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out
upon them. 29 And it came to pass, when midday was past,
and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the
evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to
answer, nor any that regarded. 30 And Elijah said unto all
the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came
near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that
was broken down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones,
according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob,
unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall
be thy name: 32 And with the stones he built an altar in the
name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as
great as would contain two measures of seed. 33 And he put
the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid
him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and
pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. 34 And he
said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time.
And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third
time. 35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he
filled the trench also with water. 36 And it came to pass at
the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah
the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham,
Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art
God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done
all these things at thy word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me,
that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and
that thou hast turned their heart back again. 38 Then the fire
of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the

wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. [39] And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

Elijah challenged the people to pick and to stick to a side—God or Baal. They were speechless, probably either from shame or from surprise at the audacity of someone so boldly going, shall we say, where no one had gone before. Plus, p*eople don't like having their beliefs challenged.*

Elijah: I'm just one person in favor of the LORD, but there are 450 of Baal's prophets. Let's put who's who of God/gods to a test.

The LORD was indisputably proven to truly be God. Likewise, Baal was proven to be fake.

In current times, what does it take for professing Believers to firmly choose a side—the Most High and the accompanying suffering with Christ vs. Satan's world and his fleeting mirage of shiny stuff?

Undecided? Why are so many stuck between two opinions concerning God? What "fire" would it take to clarify—to solidify who's who personally?

January 30

1 Kings 19:8-18

“Not Earth, Wind, or Fire!”

8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in
the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights
unto Horeb the mount of God. 9 And he came thither
unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word
of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him,
What doest thou here, Elijah? 10 And he said, I have
been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the
children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown
down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the
sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my
life, to take it away. 11 And he said, Go forth, and
stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold,
the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind
rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks
before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind:
and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was
not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a
fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the
fire a still small voice. 13 And it was so, when Elijah
heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and
went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave.

And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? 14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. 15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. 17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. 18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

The LORD was not in the **wind**.
The LORD was not in the **earthquake**.
The LORD was not in the **fire**.

Where was the LORD?

The LORD was, instead, in a still,
small voice—a motionless and quiet voice.

In our lives, is the LORD sometimes found in non-sensationalized situations?

Does God speak to or about individuals in less than dramatic ways—the non-earthquake, non-wind, and non-fire ways?

Are there followers of the still, small voice who dutifully represent scriptural truth despite frail bodies, downplayed or little-known websites, and hidden blogs?

What might be various Baal-types of our time?

Who are the Elijah-types of our day?

Are there any in these times who have not bowed to or kissed modern-day *Baals*?

Are there earthquake-like government leaders, wind-like religious leaders, or fire-like celebrities to whom some people bow and worship?

Do we even hear God's still, small voice when God speaks not in the earthquake, not in the wind, nor in the fire?

January 31

John 2:1-11

"Water To Wine: A Mark in Time"

1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of
Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2 And both
Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.
3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus
saith unto him, They have no wine. 4 Jesus saith unto
her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is
not yet come. 5 His mother saith unto the servants,
Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. 6 And there were
set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of
the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three
firkins apiece. 7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the
waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the
brim. 8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear
unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. 9 When
the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was
made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the
servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of
the feast called the bridegroom, 10 And saith unto him,
Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine;
and when men have well drunk, then that which is
worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.
11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of

Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Questions & For Thought: The Point?

? Was Jesus pro-wine? Did he encourage drinking intoxicants? Was *that* wine alcoholic?

? Does this suggest making organic wine?

? Does the passage support the calling of mothers "woman"? Was that a cultural behavior or was Jesus exhibiting annoyance?

? The "ruler of the feast" who commented that "good wine" had been served last rather than first, as was done at most weddings, did not attribute that difference to Jesus. Only the servers knew it was Jesus who had turned the water into wine (verses 9 and 10). So then, that minority group knew more (had a greater understanding) than the majority and mighty,

didn't they? Maybe that's a deeper-level message of the account—knowledge, wisdom, and understanding is not about numbers and status.

? Was there a significance in the occasion being held on the "third" day (verse 1)?

? Was this recorded to sanction the institution of marriage?

? Why was Jesus' mother concerned about wine and was directing servants? We're not privy to information about her holding any specified position in the wedding. All we're told is that she "was there" (verse 1).

? Was a purpose of this account to say that Jesus had special powers which his mother knew about? What did Jesus mean by saying, "my hour is not yet come"? Did his mother's request of him cause Jesus to be revealed before an originally set time?

? Does the record mark Jesus' first public miracle?... his first miracle in Cana?... his

first-ever miracle? Surely for Mary to have involved Jesus, she must have had *some* reason (from *something* in their past) to believe Jesus could do extremely unusual things.

? Was the water-to-wine display necessary for "his disciples" to believe Jesus was unique and special? Also, in what way did this incident manifest "his glory" (verse 11)?

? It is said that **water** is naturally present in grapes and is considered a key component of wine— consisting of around 85% of its volume. No additional water is typically added during the wine-making process. With that as a premise, did Jesus have super-advanced knowledge in chemistry, affording him the ability to *somehow* manipulate the properties in the water to make wine? Was the change scientific rather than supernatural?

A quick online search of
"water to wine meaning"
may yield several interpretations of the
purpose, the main points, of the account:

. Jesus' Power . Abundance . Transformation
. Jesus' Role . Symbolism

Reading the account, itself, and possibly even reading various online interpretations may provide some degree of understanding of this scriptural passage. Still, Believers may seek understanding straight from the Holy Spirit. We may receive revelation knowledge and depth of comprehension which may not be readily available otherwise.

In fact, that is the very aim of these 1-A-Day Scripture sharing clips. The hope is to foster personal and individual studies, questions, thoughts, and guidance from the Holy One while keeping in mind that no human knows everything. No one will ever know everything about and during what we call "life". Just as Scripture says, we know and prophecy not in full, but rather "**in part**" (1 Corinthians 13:9,12).

So, let's continue to read and study in submission to the Most High, coming only "as little children" (Matthew 18:3).

May Creator bless and guide each soul into all truth.

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